

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W
----- 041439 /13

R 170913Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4037
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 19555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, CU
SUBJECT: CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO MARCOS

1. NEWLY ARRIVED CUBAN AMBASSADOR JOSE ARTEAGA HERNANDEZ, PRESENTED CREDENTIALS DEC 16. CEREMONY GOT MODERATE PUBLICITY IN MANILA PRESS. PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS "WILL MAKE MORE FRUITFUL IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES ARISING OUT OF THEIR SIMILAR PASTS, COMMON HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND RESPECT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY OR PERSUASION."

2. CUBAN-PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE BROKEN WHEN US BROKE RELATIONS WITH CUBA IN 1961. THEY WERE RESTORED WHEN MRS. MARCOS VISITED HAVANA IN AUGUST 1975. FIRST CUBAN DIPLOMATS ARRIVED IN MANILA IN AUGUST 1976. HOWEVER, MUCH TO CHAGRIN OF CUBANS, GOP DELAYED FOR MONTHS IN GRANTING AGREEMENT TO ARTEAGA WHEN THE LOCAL SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT BECAME FULLY AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS OF FACT THAT HE IS MEMBER OF CUBAN CP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE
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AND A VETERAN OF MANY YEARS' EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. CUBANS WERE PARTICULARLY IRRITATED BECAUSE IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT MRS. MARCOS HAD AGREED TO ARTEAGA APPOINTMENT WHEN SHE VISITED HAVANA.

3. AS SENIOR CUBAN DIPLOMAT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, IT IS EXPECTED THAT ARTEAGA WILL BE ACCREDITED TO OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WHEN AND IF RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED. STAFF OF CUBAN EMBASSY NOW TOTALS SEVEN (GOVERNMENT IS PERMITTING A TOTAL OF EIGHT.) WITH CHINESE MISSION ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED, VIETNAMESE JUST ARRIVED, AND SOVIETS ON THE WAY, MANILA IS ABOUT TO HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY A RATHER FULL PANOPLY OF COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS (THERE ARE NO RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND, OF COURSE, EUROPEANS, YUGOSLAVS AND ROMANIANS ARE IN RESIDENCE.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA19555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0726
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabcnu.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO MARCOS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, CU, (ARTEAGA HERNANDEZ, JOSE), (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006